

Report on Serra Fall Conference held at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada, on November 12 to 14, 2010

It was a very successful Conference and a wonderful camaraderie of all the SERRANS; approximately 98 members attended, the Speakers were great and there were very interesting topics and interaction with the audience.

The Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough (SCMS) President, Felisa Pulumbarit, opened the Saturday morning session with the Serra Prayer for Vocations. She thanked all the participants of the conference as well as the Presidents of the attending Serra Clubs. From our club, a presentation was made to explain the significance of the baptismal bibs and stoles, with a demonstration using dolls acting as models for them. These baptismal bibs and stoles were handmade by Sophie Manalo, SCMS member, and the distribution is being coordinated by Dennis Wahking, another SCMS member, to some of the Scarborough parishes for the child's baptism in their respective parishes. Proceeds from this initiative go to the SCMS club to fund the travelling chalice and other club's initiatives.

The first speaker for the morning session was **Friar Tom Purcell, OFM Conventual**, whose topic was "*A Call to Service in our Church as a **Brother** in Religious Order Communities*". His passion and dedication, as a Religious Brother, was very evident in how he spoke about the Franciscan Missionaries.

The second speaker for the morning session was **Sr. Maureen Baldwin, Executive Director, National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors**, whose topic was "*A Call to Service in our Church as a **Sister** in Religious Order Communities*". She shared her experience with us and invited us to respond to our baptismal call, which allows for all vocations to become fully alive.

The third speaker for the afternoon session was **Fr. Len Altilia, S.J., Assistant for Vocations, Society of Jesus in English Canada**, whose topic was "*The Uniqueness of a **Priestly Vocation** in Religious Order Communities*". His explanation about the role of the Society of Jesus in English Canada was very profound and interesting.

Most of our club's participants, approximately 22 members, wanted to have more time on the Q/A.

The Governor's Award for Outstanding Service was presented to 14 Past District Governors, and one of the Governor's Award certificates was presented to Serra Club of Markham and Scarborough.

THANKS TO MARIO BISCARDI who, despite experiencing a family bereavement at that time, provided generous support and assistance to the Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough (SCMS) during its pre-planning and post implementation stages, That was very much appreciated. SCMS President, Felisa Pulumbarit, was awarded with the Governor's Award. This was a testament that Mario Biscardi's guidance, wisdom and governance proved to be very successful and effective and our Club acknowledged this with gratitude in our hearts.